



# Making Tracks

**Editor:** Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*  
**Layout:** Denise Lehmann

## Forest Park Office

**5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112**  
For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

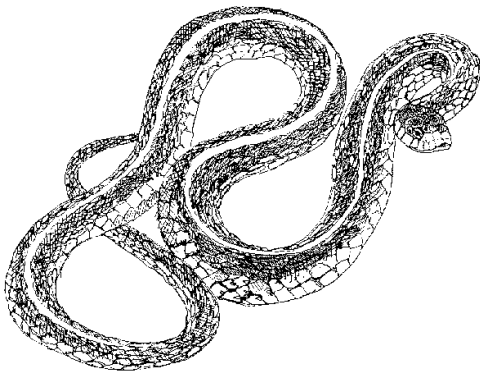
### 23

*Wednesday*

### Reptiles of Missouri

*10 a.m. – 11 a.m.*

(All Ages) Come learn about our Missouri reptilian friends. We will talk about what a reptile is and we will even get to touch a few. The program will be held inside the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor Center in the Learning Lab.  
*Naturalist: Jamaica Duane* (Reservations begin August 9.)





# Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

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# Making Tracks

## St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

*August 2006      Volume 06, Number 08*



# Naturally Glowing

*By Liz Lyons, Conservation Education Supervisor*

As a child, I was always fascinated by things that glowed. My favorite summer evening activity was chasing and catching fireflies. I remember I always held them, cupped in my hands, with my eye up close to a tiny hole between my fingers, until they would shine their light at least once. Then I opened up my hands and watched them crawl to the end of my fingers, open their wings and take off into the night. My souvenir money at summer carnivals and fireworks displays would always be spent on the glow-in-the-dark necklaces, which I cherished late into the evening until I could no longer keep my eyes open. And whenever our electricity went out during those great St. Louis thunderstorms, my father always pulled out the glow sticks that you “cracked” to get them going. They never failed to take my mind off the storm.

Nature’s term for living things that glow is *bioluminescence*, and there are many other examples of this phenomenon in Missouri. If you take a walk near a shallow pond in late August to early September, you may get to see firefly larvae, sometimes called glowworms, glowing and wiggling around the edge of the water. Unlike adult fireflies, which flash their lights intermittently to attract mates, the larvae produce light continuously. The most commonly accepted theory as to why the larvae glow is to communicate to potential predators that they taste horrible. Firefly larvae have long, curved jaws shaped like a sliver of the moon. They use these jaws to inject a toxin into things they eat, like snails, slugs, earthworms and other insects. Sometimes firefly eggs also glow. Fireflies are actually not flies, but beetles.

In Missouri, we also have another type of glowworm beetle, *Phengodes plumosa*. They are not as common as fireflies, but they also glow continuously like firefly larvae. These beetles are sometimes called “railroad worms” because the pattern of lighted spots along their bodies looks like the light coming through a railroad car window at night. Railroad worms can be found in the spring in grassy and bushy places.

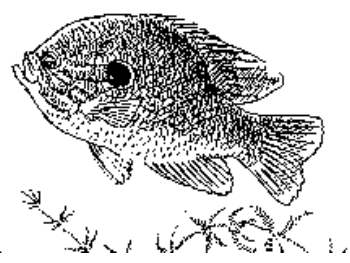
Bioluminescence can also be seen in some Missouri mushrooms. Eerie foxfire, also known as will-o’-the-wisp or faerie fire, is most commonly seen in moist fall woods. Foxfire is a colorful term referring to a glowing spot on a piece of dead wood. The most common source of foxfire in Missouri is the honey mushroom, *Armillaria mellea*. When this mushroom is disturbed, its mycelium is exposed to air and gives off a cold, dim glow. The honey mushroom can be seen in late summer to early fall. Researchers still are unable to determine any survival advantage for fungi emitting this strange glow. Honey mushrooms are poisonous to most people. Those who can tolerate it must cook it first.

The Jack-O’-Lantern (*Omphalotus olearius*) is another late summer to fall mushroom that is bioluminescent. Also called the false chanterelle because of its resemblance to the edible chanterelle mushroom, the poisonous, bright orange jack-o’-lantern is bioluminescent on a dark night, or when freshly cut and placed in a dark room. After allowing your eyes to adjust to the dark, you can see the mushroom giving off a faint, greenish glow. The mushroom is well-named, not only because it glows, but also because it is bright orange, just like a pumpkin.

The only way to see bioluminescence is to get outside on a dark night. Later this month and in early September, head outside and try to find firefly larvae, foxfire and jack-o’-lantern mushrooms glowing in the woods. You’ll have great stories to tell of your nighttime adventures, and have a good chance of seeing nature glow in the dark!

**2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/)

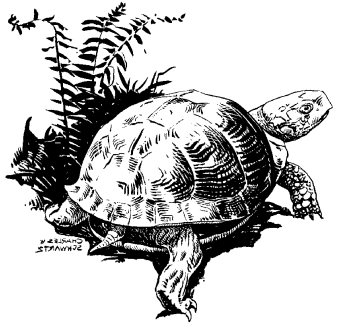
**2 One Fish, Two Fish**  
*Wednesday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-5) Join us to read Dr. Suess’s book *One Fish, Two Fish*. Then we will paint fish! Oh my! *Volunteer Naturalist: Margaret Sutter McGregor* (Reservations begin July 19.)



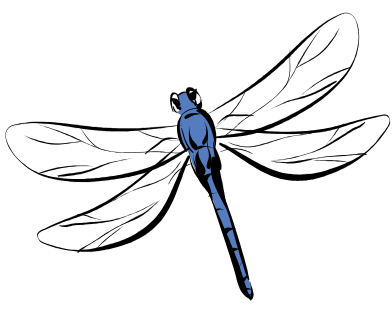
**5 Let’s Go Exploring**  
*Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-5) In the spirit of Dora, preschoolers will learn to follow a basic map to find a destination. *Volunteer Naturalist: Mary Cunningham* (Reservations begin July 21.)

**12 Prairie Walk**  
*Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(Families) We’ll take a walk through the prairie and discuss the settlers years ago who had to make their way through the prairie. The summertime prairie is nature’s impressionist painting; color abounds and changes each day. Come celebrate summer on the prairie – bring your hat and water bottle; wear a long-sleeved shirt, sunscreen and insect repellent. Meet in front of the main office at Busch. *Volunteer Naturalist: Gladys Kullman* (Reservations begin August 1.)

**19 Reptiles of Marais Temps Clair (MTC) Conservation Area**  
*Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Families) A warm summer morning is a good time to see turtles and snakes basking in the sun in their native habitat. Several species of turtles and snakes can usually be seen during a late-summer hike at MTC. Join us for a 2.5-mile hike on the levees at MTC to view reptiles and other native wildlife of eastern St. Charles County. Learn the identifying characteristics of the native turtles and snakes and view them through spotting scopes provided by MDC. Meet at the MTC office parking area. *Volunteer Naturalist: Marvin Staloch* (Reservations begin August 4.)



**22 Once Upon a Pond**  
*Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-6) Dragonflies are one of the many interesting animals that act as characters in the story of a pond. Join us to learn about them as we read books, make a craft and take a short walk to explore a pond. *Naturalist: Eileen Diskin* (Reservations begin August 8.)



Busch Volunteer Milestones	
Ryan Diener.....	100 hours
Kristen Schulte.....	100 hours
Angel Stahr.....	200 hours
Kristen Schulte.....	200 hours
Angie Jungbluth.....	300 hours
Aaron Jungbluth.....	400 hours
Joe Veras.....	400 hours
Lynn LePage.....	500 hours
Joe Veras.....	500 hours
Billy Key.....	500 hours
Madolena Key.....	750 hours
Carol Jean Price.....	1,500 hours
Ed Leutwiler.....	2,000 hours
Marvin Staloch.....	2,500 hours
Karen Staloch.....	2,500 hours

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# Making Tracks

## St. Louis Region Newsletter

### Missouri Master Naturalist: Your Key to Discovering Natural Missouri

Which Missouri plants are native and which are not? How many species of wildlife live in Missouri? If you are full of questions about natural Missouri, the Master Naturalist program is for you.

Discover how you can learn more about Missouri’s natural resources, be a part of managing those resources through hands-on conservation activities, and develop your skills as a naturalist, resource scientist, botanist, educator or recreational specialist. Gain a wealth of natural science information at special training programs directed by some of the state’s finest biologists. Help survey plants and animals, restore landscapes to their natural splendor and help your friends and neighbors appreciate the natural environment right in their backyards. Be a part of a locally based team that works to conserve Missouri’s natural communities while you build new friendships with others who share your love of Missouri’s outdoors. Pass on your love of the outdoors to your community and generations to come by developing hands-on nature programs or new trails and educational sites. These are just a few of the exciting possibilities with the Missouri Naturalist program.

Missouri Master Naturalist is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer program jointly sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and University of Missouri Extension. Its purpose is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the state of Missouri.

The Confluence Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists is conducting a fall training class and anyone age 18 or older is welcome to participate. The 10-week training class will start on Tuesday, August 29. Classes will be held at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles County. Class will start at 3 p.m. and go until 6 p.m.. The enrollment fee of \$95 covers the cost of a comprehensive manual and guide kit plus expenses for field trips. Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. Class size is limited to 25 participants. Applications are available at the University of Missouri Extension office, 260 Brown Road, St. Peters MO 63376.

For more information visit <http://extension.missouri.edu/stcharles/masternaturalist/> or call Nick Davis (MDC) at (636) 300-1953 ext. 244. To register, call Scott Killpack - (MU) at (636) 970-3000.





**2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038** Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/)

**3 Making Nature Journals Part I: Papermaking**  
*Thursday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(Ages 6 & up) Join us in this nature series as we teach you how to make your own nature journals. We will show you from start to finish how to turn your junk mail and old cereal boxes into beautiful pieces of paper and journal covers. After you make your paper the first day, you will come back the second day to learn different ways to assemble your creation. *Volunteer Naturalist: Karen Kelly* (Reservations begin July 20.)

**4 Making Nature Journals Part II: Journal Making**  
*Friday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(Ages 6 & up) *Volunteer Naturalist: Karen Kelly* (Reservations begin July 20.)

**9 Backpacking/Hiking**  
*Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 9 & up) What better way to spend the summer than venturing out into the great outdoors? So grab your sunscreen, hiking boots and backpack as we venture onto Rockwood’s Turkey Ridge Trail. We will teach you the “must knows” about day hikes and enjoy the beauty of this 2-mile trail. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker* (Reservations begin July 26.)

**11 Wild Jams and Jellies**  
*Friday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(Ages 8 & up) Learn how to turn wild berries into the most delicious jams and jellies. We will learn how to identify these tasty treats in nature and the proper way to harvest them. We will be using gooseberries, blackberries and smooth sumac. Reservations required. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker* (Reservations begin July 28.)

**11 Homeschool Special: Life on the Forest Floor**  
*Friday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 6 & up) Through investigation, participants will examine the life found on the forest floor. Under rocks, logs and decaying leaf litter, discoveries are made and animals found of a forgotten, but important, world of nature’s recyclers. *Naturalist: Angela Pierce* (Reservations begin July 28.)

**12 Rock Quarry Hike**  
*Saturday 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.*  
(Adults) Join us as we explore an Ozark trail and discover what is unique about this area. How was it formed? What lives in the glades, woodlands and caves? Discover the relationships among weather, natural resources and the flora and fauna. *Volunteer Naturalist: Karen Staloch* (Reservations begin July 28.)

**17 Cave Exploration**  
*Thursday 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.*  
(Ages 7 & up) Enter the underground world of Rockwoods Cave! Learn about a cave ecosystem and the importance wildlife plays in it. This hands-on exploration requires crawling on your stomach for several feet. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. *Naturalist: Angela Pierce* (Reservations begin August 3.)

**18 Cooking on a Stick**  
*Friday 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 7-12) Learn to cook delicious meals over a campfire! We will taste our delicacies after we learn how to prepare and cook them. All food will be provided. Participants will need to bring a medium-sized cardboard box. *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker* (Reservations begin August 4.)



Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones		
Don Bloomfield.....	100 hours	Michaela Turner.....200 hours
Tom Geger.....	100 hours	Jean Favara..... 400 hours
		John Ruprecht .....1,250 hours

**801 Strodman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138** Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/)

**5 Worms Will Eat My Garbage!**  
*Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Families) Worms really can eat your garbage! Come learn how easy it is to compost your food waste using worms. Each adult or family will go home with a worm bin ready for use. Join us to reduce the amount of garbage heading to our landfills — with worms! *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin July 22.)

**8 Animal Actions at Bellefontaine Conservation Area**  
*Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*  
(Families) Explore the world of animal actions through games, movement, art and more. Be prepared to hop like a frog or slither like a snake. Bring your creativity — you’ll be acting out animal charades, creating animal drawings and more. Don’t forget your sunscreen and bug spray. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane* (Reservations begin July 26.)

**9 Moonlight on Two Rivers**  
*Wednesday 8:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.*  
(Adults) Ever wonder what a full moon looks like on the Missouri and Mississippi? It’s beautiful! So, join us for a summer evening walk. We’ll start at the Confluence Observation Platform. Then, stroll along the River’s Edge Trail to see what else we discover before returning to the Confluence. *Naturalist Program Supervisor: Colleen Scott* (Reservations begin July 26.)

**16 Babes in the Woods**  
*Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*  
(Ages 0-3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! This month we’ll check out what shapes we can find in the forest at Columbia Bottom. Our adventure will include a hike, craft, story and snack! Older siblings are welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid* (Reservations begin August 2.)

**31 Diggin’ Decomposers**  
*Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*  
(All Ages) Did you ever wonder about the tiny critters that live on the forest floor? Spend the morning sifting through leaves and search the nooks and crannies of fallen logs to discover what calls these places home. Not only will you see an amazing number of insects, but you will learn what they eat and how they survive. *Volunteer Naturalist: Colleen Crank* (Reservations begin August 17.)



Columbia Bottom Volunteer Milestones	
Colleen Crank.....	100 hours
Denise Moorman.....	200 hours
Andra Stanley.....	300 hours
Barbra Stephenson.....	300 hours
David Petree.....	400 hours

THANK YOU TO WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED  
A heartfelt thank you goes to Wild Birds Unlimited in Florissant for their generous donation of six pairs of Eagle Optics binoculars. This generous gift will enable us to provide more and improved birding opportunities to the visitors of our conservation areas.

**11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/)

**2 Hiking at Powder Valley**  
*Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to see birds, trees and wildflowers. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman* (Reservations begin July 19.)

**3 Busy, Buzzy, Striped and Fuzzy**  
*Thursday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 6-9) This fun program teaches bee basics, including their life cycle, lifestyle and interesting facts. Play games, taste unique honey, even observe a live beehive! *Staff Naturalist: Amy Anderson and Naturalist Intern: Kelly Kipp* (Reservations begin July 20.)

**15 Babes in the Woods**  
*Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Ages 0-3) It’s never too early to begin enjoying the outdoors. Summer is in full bloom, so there will be lots of things to explore. Join us for a stroller walk and discover how nature appeals to our senses. *Staff Naturalist: Jada Barhorst* (Reservations begin August 1.)


**18 An Ozark Stream Tour**  
*Friday 10 a.m. – Noon*  
(Ages 7 & up) On a warm summer day, Ozark streams offer a refreshing place to play and keep cool. Discovering what lives in a stream adds mystery and fun. So, let’s take a stream tour at Emmenegger Nature Park at a shallow shoal on the Meramec. We will supply everything needed to look for aquatic insects, crustaceans and minnows. Wear shorts and lace-up sneakers or wading boots for walking in water. *Staff Naturalist: David Bradford* (Reservations begin August 1.)

**21 Dove Fever at Henges!**  
*Monday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.*  
(Ages 11 & up) Dove season opens next month...are you ready? Doves are fantastic birds that make for fast action hunting. Come out to the Henges Range & conservation Education Center to learn about these birds’ amazing lives and how to hunt them. Bring your shotgun (not required) because we’ll even do some target shooting. Twenty spots available. Shotguns, shells and targets will be provided. *Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy with Henges Staff* (Reservations begin August 7.)

**23 Hiking at Powder Valley**  
*Wednesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*  
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to see what trees, birds and wildflowers are there. *Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman* (Reservations begin August 9.)

**25 Camping with Critters**  
*Friday 7 p.m. – 9 a.m.*  
(All Ages) Bring the family and experience an overnight campout in the safe setting of Powder Valley’s forest. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in interpretive and outdoor skills programs so they can better appreciate the forest and wildlife around them. Participants will discover the night is full of interesting wildlife and camping is a great way to experience what the night has to offer. We have a limited number of tents, so bring your own tent and be prepared for a night of outdoor fun! We’ll finish the program with breakfast and a morning hike. Space is limited to 50 participants, sign up early! (Reservations begin August 3.)

**28 Babes in the Woods**  
*Monday 9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.*  
(Ages 0-3) A stroller walk with the very young to begin their enjoyment and awareness of nature. *Volunteer Naturalist: Alma Dulz* (Reservations begin August 14.)



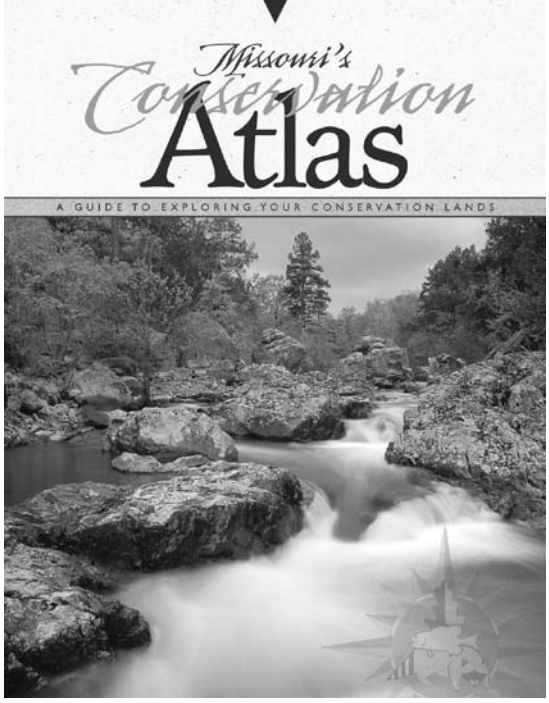
### August Hallway Exhibit Artist

**Walt Liddell**

In spring 1957 a pair of robins built a nest in a small pine tree in Walt Liddell’s front yard. Over the course of a few weeks Walt made a complete photographic record of the activities around the nest. Walt shot pictures in both black and white and color. One of his black and white pictures finished in the top 20 in a national competition and one of the color pictures was judged “Slide of the Year” by the St. Louis Camera Club.

Those pictures changed the entire course of Walt’s photographic activity. Over the next 50 years, Walt has taken thousands of pictures of birds and other wildlife throughout the world. He has sold pictures to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and national and international publications to illustrate articles on birds and other wildlife. Walt has also exhibited in numerous local galleries.

Walt feels strongly that the wildlife of the world should be managed and protected for future generations to enjoy. Because of this belief, he has affiliated himself with local and national organizations dedicated to preserving our wildlife heritage.



## Nature Shop Special

### 20% off

As a Missouri citizen, you share in the ownership of nearly 1,000 conservation areas. To help you discover and enjoy them, the Missouri Department of Conservation has published a new atlas. Improving upon our popular former edition, we have included color topographical county maps grouped under eight regions. The easy-to-read maps feature more than 900 areas owned, managed or leased by MDC. Adjacent to each is a separate listing of its areas, accompanied by driving directions, recreational opportunities and facilities. Additionally, areas with shooting ranges and disabled-accessible facilities are highlighted on two separate pages in back. Spiral binding lets the book lie flat on your vehicle seat. 240 pages.

**\$15.20** *after discount*

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones	
Carrie Sutterer.....	100 hours     Dietrich Mueller.....1,500 hours

### August Nature Films

**August 5 & 6:**  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Eyewitness: Skeleton  
Eyewitness: Shell  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Watchable Wildlife  
Missouri Outdoors  
TV Story Collections:  
DVD SET: Volume 2: Caves and Bats  
Hawks Up Close

**August 12 & 13:**  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Keep the Balance  
The Rotten Truth  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Hunting I  
Fishing I  
Disabled Opportunities

**August 19 & 20:**  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Eyewitness: Tree Spiders  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Forests: More than Trees  
The Natural Forest  
Humans in the Forest  
Discussions for the Future  
Urban Forestry

**August 26 & 27:**  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
See How They Grow: Insects and Spiders  
See How They Grow: Pond Animals  
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Rivers & Streams  
Streams...The Force of Life  
Life Science Nature Series: Wetland Wildlife  
Vol. 1 No. 1  
The Homecoming

Shown in the Auditorium  
Free of Charge  
Groups Welcome!  
Children’s films: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
& 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
All Ages films: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
& 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
*Films are subject to change.  
Times are approximate.*  
*(CC) denotes those films that are closed captioned  
for the hearing impaired.  
No reservations required*